

Application No.: 10/683,791**Docket No.: 1315-047****REMARKS**

The Office Action of September 15, 2005 has been considered in detail, and Applicants' hereby submit their comments to the Office Action below.

Applicants note the telephonic election of claims 1-4. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement between claims 5-6, and the remaining claims because claims 5 and 6 depend on claims 1 and 9, respectively. As such, claims 5 and 6 are not separate and distinct from claims 1 and 9. As a result, claims 5 and 6 are properly considered in the same application as claims 1 and 9.

Applicants note the indication of the allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 4. To this end, claim 1, as originally submitted, and claim 3, substantially as originally submitted, have been combined as claim 1. Hence, claim 1, and the claims dependent on it, i.e., claims 5, 7 and 8, are allowable. Claims 7 and 8 include the features the Examiner implicitly said should go in claims 1 and 2.

The specification has been amended to indicate the debubbling pipes and the handle are located on opposite sides of the body plate. No new matter has been presented since the feature is shown in the drawing, as indicated on page 4 of the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is in order. However, Applicant does not agree that independent claims 1 and 2 need to include an indication that the pipes and handles are located on opposite sides of the body plate. Explanation is requested.

Claims 9 and 16, and dependent claims 10-17, are patentable over Price, U.S. Patent 1,184,259, and Spadaccini et al., U.S. Patent 6,315,815, both relied on to reject claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102 in the previous Office action.

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Price discloses a device for removing bubbles. The Price device comprises a plate 5 having a plurality of perforated gas holes that are in fluid flow relation with needles 6 having an elongated duct 7 that communicate with horizontal ducts 7, Fig. 5. In Price, the horizontal ducts in needles 6 are all the same distance from plate 5. Applicant, by providing debubbling holes along the lengths of the pipes at different distances from the body plate, enhances the debubbling efficiency regardless of the depth or shape of the mold. Hence, claim 9, and the claims dependent thereon, distinguish patentability over Price.

Spadaccini et al. describes a membrane based fuel deoxygenator used, for example, in aircraft gas turbine engines. The device comprises manifold 117 to which one end of tubes 113 are connected. Tubes 113 can be formed of membrane filter 112. It is clear that tubes 113 do not have free ends for emersion into a mold, and that one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify tubes 113 to include such an arrangement. As a result, claim 9, and the claims dependent thereon, distinguish patentability over Spadaccini et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are in order.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Application No.: 10/683,791Docket No.: 1315-017

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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